

Course of Study

Ethics Part I (THA4)
And
Ethics Part II (THC4)

Course Description

This document outlines the sequence of learning activities students should complete to help prepare to demonstrate competence in this subject area. The timeline represents the standard number of weeks that should be allowed to prepare for an assessment. These steps may be completed more quickly than shown below as determined in consultation with your Mentor.

Learning Tasks and Standard Timeline

In general students should take no longer than five (5) weeks to complete the modules associated with this assessment. Students may, of course, accelerate this pace. By following the calendar below students should be able to meet their learning goals.

Week 1: Module 3
Week 2: Module 4
Week 3: Module 5
Week 4: Module 6
Week 5: Module 7

Competencies

Within the Ethics sub-domain there are five (5) competencies.

Subdomain 110.1 — Ethics

Competency 110.1.1: Early History of Ethics

The graduate identifies seminal moments and concepts in the early history of ethics, including the pre-philosophic origins of ethical thought and the rise of philosophic ethics in classical Greece.

Competency 110.1.2: Religion and Moral Behavior in Society

The graduate understands the arguments related to the relationship between religion and moral behavior in society.

Competency 110.1.3: Ethical Systems

The graduate identifies the major points of view and influences of Social Contract and Utilitarian ethical systems.

Competency 110.1.4: Ethics of Dignity & Freedom

The graduate knows the arguments contained in the ethics of dignity and freedom as argued by Immanuel Kant.

Competency 110.1.5: Modern Ethical Theories

The graduate identifies the major modern (post-Kantian) ethical theories—Cultural Relativism, Subjectivism, and Egoism.

Required Learning Resources

- Singer, P. (ed.). (1993). *A companion to ethics*. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing. ISBN-13: 978-0-631-18785-1
- Rachels, J. & Rachels, S. (2007). *The elements of moral philosophy* (5th Ed.). New York, NY: McGraw Hill. ISBN-13: 978-0-07-312547-3 ISBN-10: 0-07-312547-4

Learning Tasks

Note: For a more in-depth and modular listing of the learning tasks, go to:

<http://pilot.educommons.usu.edu/wgu/liberal-arts/ethics>.

Topic	Reading/Website/Learning Resources
Week 1	
Early History of Ethics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earliest known ethical writings: See Singer, Chapter 3 • Contributions of Greek Philosophy to Ethical Thought: See Singer, Chapters 10, 21, and 39 • Aristotle's ethical theory: See Rachels, Chapter 12 • Virtue as an ethical standard: See Rachels, Chapter 13
Week 2	
Religion and Moral Behavior in Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Divine Command Theory: Rachels Chapter 4 • The Theory of Natural Law: Rachels Chapter 4 • Ethical elements in Eastern philosophy (religion) and social structures: Singer, Chapters 4,5,and 6 • Ethical elements in monotheistic religious structures: Singer, Chapters 7, 8. and 9 • Dilemmas created by applying religious teachings to contemporary social issues: Rachels, Chapter 4
Week 3	
Ethical Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modern Moral Philosophy: See Singer, Chapter 12, and Rachels, Chapter 12 • Hobbes use of the Social Contract as a basis for ethics: See Singer, Chapter 15, and Rachels, Chapter 10 • Evaluating Social Contract Ethics: See Rachels, Chapter 10 • Understanding Utilitarianism: See Singer, Chapter 20, as well as Rachels Chapters 6 & 7. • Support for the theory of utilitarianism: See Rachels, Chapter 6 & 7 • Evaluating Utilitarian Ethics: See Rachels, Chapter 7
Week 4	
The Ethics of Dignity and Freedom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kant's ethics of duty and freedom: See Singer, Chapter 14 • Categorical Imperative: See Singer, Chapter 14, and Rachels, Chapters 8 and 9 • "Dignity" and "Freedom" in Kant's Ethics: See Singer, Chapters 12 and 14, and Rachels, Chapter 9 • Differentiating between the ethics of

		Retributivism and the philosophy of Utilitarianism in Kant: See Rachels, Chapter 9 Criticism of Kant: See Singer, Chapter 14
Week 5		
	Modern Ethical Theories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural Relativism. See Rachels Chapter 2 • Ethical Subjectivism. See Rachels Chapter 3 • Underlying concepts of moral judgments in Ethics. See. Rachels Chapters 1 and 3. • Dilemmas in proving ethical theories. See Rachels Chapter 3 • Reinterpreting motives in Psychological Egoism. See Rachels Chapter 5 • The pros and cons of Psychological Egoism. See Rachels Chapters 5 • Ethical Egoism vs. Psychological Egoism. See Rachels Chapters 5 & 6, • Key arguments, pro and con, in Ethical Egoism. See Rachels, Chapter 6 • Pros and Cons of Psychological Egoism http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/egoism/#1 http://www.iep.utm.edu/e/egoism.htm • Ethical Egoism vs. Psychological Egoism http://philosophy.lander.edu/ethics/egoism.html http://www.iep.utm.edu/e/egoism.htm